

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 10928 191848Z

50

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-10 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 IO-03 EUR-10 NEA-06

DRC-01 PRS-01 DPW-01 L-02 /070 W

----- 118015

P 191102Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7937

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10928

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SAIGON IMMEDIATE INFO USDAO SAIGON
17 AUG 74 REPEATED

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 437

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, VS

SUBJ: COMMUNIST ATTACK ON CU CHI TPJMC COMPOUND

1. CU CHI DISTRICT CHIEF AND DEPUTY GVN TEAM LEADER TO TPJMC, CU CHI, CONFIRMED TO CONGEN REP THAT AN ESTIMATED 30 VC SAPPERS BELIEVED TO BE FROM THE GIA DINH 4TH SAPPER BN, SUPPORTED BY A LOCAL FORCE COMPANY, ATTACKED THE TPJMC CU CHI SITE, AT 0330 ON AUGUST 17. THE SITE WAS DEFENDED BY A 7-MAN PF SQUAD FROM THE 20TH PF PLT OF HAU NGHIA SECTOR. THE ENEMY EMPLOYED B-40 ROCKETS, SMALL ARMS AND HIGH EXPLOSIVES AGAINST THE SITE KILLING 2 PF, SERIOUSLY WOUNDING 3 AND LIGHTLY WOUNDING A FOURTH. NO ENEMY CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED BUT THREE BLOOD TRAILS WERE FOUND LEADING AWAY FROM THE SITE. A CONGEN REP VISITED THE COMPOUND AND CONFIRMED THAT, OF THE 22 BUILDINGS ON THE SITE, 6 BUILDINGS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 10928 191848Z

WERE SEVERELY DAMAGED AND ONE BUILDING WAS LIGHTLY DAMAGED.

THE SITE IS LOCATED NEAR MUI LON HAMLET ON ROUTE TL 8A AT XT608116. THE COMPOUND IS CLEARLY IDENTIFIED BY SIGNS IN BOTH VIETNAMESE AND ENGLISH AND THERE ARE NO OTHER MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE SITE. THE COMPOUND WAS DESIGNED FOR THE TPJMC BUT, IN FACT, WAS LITTLE USED AND AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK WAS OCCUPIED ONLY BY THE GUARDS. THE TPJMC OFFICE FOR CU CHI IS, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, LOCATED IN THE CU CHI DISTRICT CHIEF'S COMPOUND. THE CU CHI ICCS SUB-REGIONAL TEAM SITE IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 4 KMS FROM THE SCENE OF THE ATTACK.

2. THE DEPUTY GVN TEAM CHIEF TO THE CU CHI TPJMC, MAJOR HAONG HUU DAO, IN A CONVERSATION WITH CONGEN'S DAO REPRESENTATIVES CLAIMED THAT ON AUGUST 16 AT 0945 HE WAS DRIVING IN AN ORANGE MARKED TPJMC JEEP #2 ALONG TL 8A ON HIS WAY TO THE PROVINCE CAPITAL WHEN TWO VC ON A HONDA PASSED HIM AND FIRED A REVOLVER AT HIM PUTTING A HOLE THROUGH HIS WINDSHIELD BUT CAUSING NO INJURY.

3. THE ATTACK ON THE CU CHI TPJMC SITE WAS REPORTED TO THE HUNGARIAN TEAM LEADER WHO WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE ICCS REGION V HQ AT BIEN HOA ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 17 BUT NO ACTION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN BY THE ICCS AS A WHOLE. THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION IMMEDIATELY MADE AN "OBSERVATION" OF THE SITE BUT THE IRANIAN DELEGATION IS STILL AWAITING ORDERS FROM SAIGON. ALTHOUGH THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION ASSUMED THE CHAIRMANSHIP AT NOON ON AUGUST 17 NO FURTHER ACTION IS EXPECTED FROM ICCS REGION V.

4. COMMENT: CONSIDERING THAT THE SITE CONSISTED OF NOTHING BUT A GROUP OF EMPTY BUILDINGS MANNED BY A HANDFUL OF PF, IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THIS COMMUNIST ATTACK, WHICH RISKED AN ESTIMATED 30 MEN AND EXPENDED A FAIR AMOUNT OF EXPLOSIVES, COULD HAVE BEEN PERPETRATED FOR ANYTHING ELSE BUT POLITICAL MOTIVES. THE TPJMC NATURE OF THE SITE IS WELLKNOWN THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY AND THERE ARE NO OTHER MILITARY INSTALLATIONS NEARBY FOR WHICH THE SITE MIGHT HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN. THE CU CHI DISTRICT CHIEF BELIEVES THE ATTACK MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXECUTED TO RE-AFFIRM TO THE LOCAL POPULATION THE COMMUNIST PRESENCE IN THE AREA, HOWEVER, IT WOULD SEEM MORE PROBABLE, GIVEN THE SPECIAL STATUS OF THIS COMPOUND, THAT THE COMMUNIST INTENTION WAS TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINION OF THE TPJMC OPERATION AS UNILATERALLY UNDERTAKEN BY THE GVN.

LAHIGUERA
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 10928 191848Z

UNQUOTE
LEHMANN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT ZONES, COMBAT CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON10928
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740228-0267
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740836/aaaabezi.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMUNIST ATTACK ON CU CHI TPJMC COMPOUND
TAGS: MILI, PINS, VS, TPJMC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005